

CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

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LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate of appropriation for the support and civilization of the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876.*

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JANUARY 27, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 9, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an estimate of appropriation for \$30,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the support and civilization of the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876.

The necessity of this appropriation is fully explained in the accompanying copy of a report, dated the 8th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and inclosures, letter of Agent Mahan addressed to General H. H. Sibley, of the board of Indian commissioners, and indorsements of General Sibley and F. H. Smith, secretary of said board.

The subject is respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER, *House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 8, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 2d instant, transmitting, for the consideration of this Office, and report, a letter of J. L. Mahan, agent for the Chippewas of Lake Superior, addressed to General H. H. Sibley, of the board of Indian commissioners, under date of December 1, 1874; by him referred to the board, and by its secretary to the Department, relative to the condition and wants of said Indians.

The agent, in his letter, calls attention to the expiration, by limitation, of the provisions of the treaty of September 30, 1854, with the Chippewas of Lake Superior, providing for their support; and states that in view of the advanced steps toward civilization taken by those Indians, it would be a sad mistake if they were left the next year without the usual annuities; and asks that the same appropriation for that purpose as was made for the present year, be continued. He also asks for appropriations for educational and agricultural purposes, without which the interests of the Indians in those directions will materially suffer.

By the treaty of September 30, 1854, with the Chippewas of Lake Superior, (10 Stats., p. 1109,) the following payments were guaranteed to them annually, for a period of twenty years, viz :

Annuity in coin .....	\$5,000
Annuity in goods .....	8,000
For agricultural purposes .....	3,000
For educational purposes .....	3,000
For pay of smiths and assistants, and support of shops .....	6,360

Total .....	25,360
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There are also other provisions in the treaty, providing for the payment, during the pleasure of the President, of sums amounting to .....	1,800
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And two annual installments yet due for the support of smith and assistant, &c., each of .....	1,060
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Making .....	28,220
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Which they have been receiving annually for their support.

In the estimate of appropriations for the Indian service for the next fiscal year, is included the two items last above named, amounting to \$2,860, which is all that is embraced in said estimate for the Chippewas of Lake Superior.

In view of the fact that the provisions for the payment of annuities, and for other purposes, amounting to \$25,360 annually, have expired by limitation; of the necessities of the said Indians, as set forth by the agent in his letter; and also of the recommendations of General Sibley, who, in referring the matter to the board of Indian commissioners for its action, urges that Congress be earnestly entreated to continue the appropriations for said Indians, I respectfully recommend that the matter be laid before that body for its action; and herewith submit copies of the papers herein referred to, and an estimate of appropriation required for next fiscal year for the objects and purposes therein named.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. SMITH,

*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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*Estimate of appropriation required for the support and civilization of the Chippewas of Lake Superior.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the support and civilization of the Chippewas of Lake Superior, to be expended for agricultural and educational purposes, pay of clerk and necessary employes, purchase of goods and provisions, and for transporting the same, and for such other purposes as may be deemed for the best interests of said Indians..... \$30,000

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,  
CHIPPEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR,  
*Du Luth, Minn., December 1, 1874.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as a basis upon which legislation is asked:

1st. The treaty of September, 1854, calls for an allotment of eighty acres of land to each head of a family or single person over twenty-one (21) years of age. Now, it is estimated that it will cost twenty dollars to blaze out the lines and put each person in possession of his vested rights under this treaty. I am informed that sixty persons on Bad River reservation have made their selections, and want of the funds is the only thing lacking. There is also on Lac Court Oreille reservation the same number, making 120 at \$20 per head, \$2,400.

2d. The treaty of September, 1854, calls for an examination, and all sums equitably due the Indians for arrearages under this or former treaties shall be paid as the chiefs may direct. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Department by the present agent, who has been informed that there are no funds from which to pay the necessary expense of a trip of these Indians to Washington, that they may make said examination. Funds are respectfully asked to meet this demand.

3d. This same treaty of September, 1854, stipulates that highways and railroads shall have the right of way through any of the said reservations, compensation being made therefor as in other cases. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company has, in violation of the express wish of the Fond du Lac Indians, entered their reservation, laid their track and cut some of their most valuable timber, for which the said Fond du Lac Indians have received no redress, and for which they pray through their friends in Congress. So much for the treaty. Now for special matters.

4th. The Fond du Lac reserve is much larger than there is any need of. The Indians do not care to have so much unoccupied territory. The reserve is valuable only for its timber. I would respectfully ask that authority be given the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs to sell off a large portion of this reserve and use the proceeds in improving the balance and in making the Indians comfortable in houses.

5th. The Grand Portage bands of Chippewas have a reserve on Lake Superior, on the northern boundary of Minnesota, of no value whatever to the Indians and of little value to any one else. They are an industrious class of people, with the means at hands, but little has ever been done for them by the Government. They are desirous of having a portion of their reserve disposed of for their benefit or the whole sold and the Indians removed to a more favorable locality. Authority is therefore asked for the sale of a portion or all of the reserve and the removal of these Indians to Bad River or elsewhere.

6th. I asked in my annual report to the Indian Department that funds be allowed this agency, for agricultural purposes, to the extent of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each reserve. This is a small amount when you take into consideration the vast amount of work to be done. It is therefore hoped that this amount will be freely given them.

7th. I also asked in said report that an additional one thousand dollars be given the Bad River Indians for school-purposes. This is a much-needed appropriation, and should by all means be granted, for without this amount the schools will suffer a great loss in the necessary discharge of two valuable teachers.

8th. I also asked that in view of the advanced steps in civilization taken by the Indians and held up to this time, it would be a sad mistake if they were left this next year without the usual annuities. I therefore asked that the same appropriation be made for them that was made last year, and that steps be taken to provide the means and authority for some one to visit this agency and make inquiry as to the needs and desires of these Indians. It is therefore hoped that the honorable Committee on Indian Affairs will see the importance of taking the initiatory steps at this session of Congress. The expiration of the treaty and the late decisions of the Supreme Court render this step the more important. There are also debts hanging over this agency growing out of the late agent's attempt to remove the Fond du Lac band of Indians to Bad River, which should receive the attention of the honorable Committee on Indian Affairs. (See statement on file in Indian Department.)

9th. An appropriation of twelve hundred dollars is respectfully asked for assistance in this office. The reservations being so far apart, and to do the labor will require the absence of the agent from the office a great part of the time, which, in justice to the agent and Government, should be met by the appointment of a clerk.

Respectfully submitted.

J. L. MAHAN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

General H. H. SIBLEY, *Saint Paul.*

[First indorsement.]

SAINT PAUL, MINN., December 8, 1874.

Respectfully forwarded to the board of Indian commissioners for such action as may be deemed proper in the premises. The communication was addressed to me by the writer, at my suggestion, after a personal interview, in which he stated orally in substance what he has now committed to paper. This is but another instance of the imperfect manner in which treaty stipulations are performed, giving cause for complaint and disaffection among the Indians. I beg leave to urge that Congress be earnestly entreated to continue the appropriations to the bands of Chippewas, notwithstanding the fact that the treaty provision for them has expired by limitation, as otherwise they must inevitably suffer from want.

H. H. SIBLEY,

*Member Board Indian Commissioners.*

[Second indorsement.]

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,

*Washington, December 30, 1874.*

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Interior with request that the same be laid before the Committee on Indian Affairs with such remarks as the honorable Secretary may see fit to indorse thereon.

F. H. SMITH,

*Secretary.*